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Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, Inc.
NCLAC Senate Cancer Coalition Hearing- September 20, 2001

As a representative of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN) and a NCLAC Member, I am submitting my statement for your consideration:

It has been my privilege to serve on the NCLAC Committee and work closely with this distinguished group of heartily committed individuals in the development of this timely and vital report. The NCLAC Committee has closed the door on its' work by issuing this report. In doing so, we've opened the door to the beginning of an opportunity that beckons energized and collaborative efforts from the public and private sector never before seen on behalf of millions of cancer patients and their families.

Technology is uniting with science to create opportunity. We must unite this opportunity with an investment and commitment for progress. Our aging population is on a collision course with a shortage of health care professionals, who will be without the scientific answers, tools and resources to deal with the crisis in cancer care.

The American people affected by cancer ask for a commitment to act upon the NCLAC Report as a roadmap to progress. Progress in the cancer continuum for all cancers is a remarkable but achievable goal.

Every cancer patient will benefit from progress through leadership and action:

- Patients with cancers that have proven results in treatments and screenings will benefit from optimized delivery and application.
- Patients with cancers without proven results will benefit from scientific answers that basic and translational science will provide.
- Patients who survive their cancers to become disease free will benefit from leading healthy productive lives.
- Patients with cancer, but without access will benefit from having a fighting chance for life if they have access to care.

The pancreatic cancer community applauds the investments that have led to scientific progress in other cancers and resulted in the development of early detection methods and effective treatments. However, pancreatic cancer still remains the 4th leading cause of cancer death for American men and women each year and this is why the NCLAC report recommendations are so imperative to us.

We are confident that implementing these recommendations will serve as a springboard to build upon the known answers as well as answer the unknown questions for pancreatic cancer and the many other deadly cancers that still exist.

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network is proud to be a part of the passionate and committed cancer advocacy community. We thank the NCLAC Committee and the cancer community for coming together to develop this important NCLAC report and its recommendations.

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